ZIPANG

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WAKE 103
GHOST WINGS

HE WAS PROBABLY ON A MISSION.

NAVY LIEUTENANT TSUDA...

...A JOURNALIST IN SHANGHAI?!

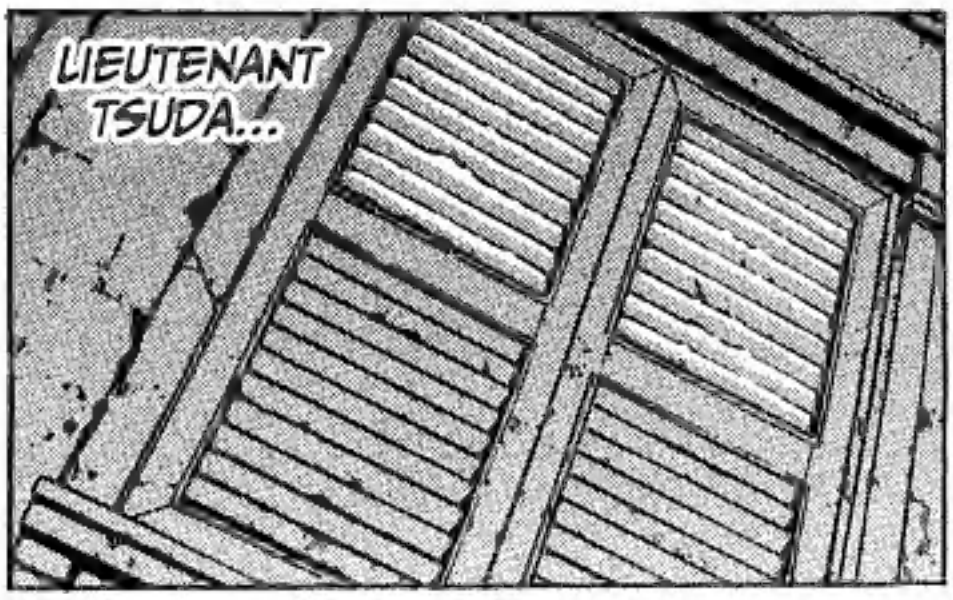
ADMIRAL YAMAMOTO HAS CONNECTIONS WITHIN THE PRESS ...

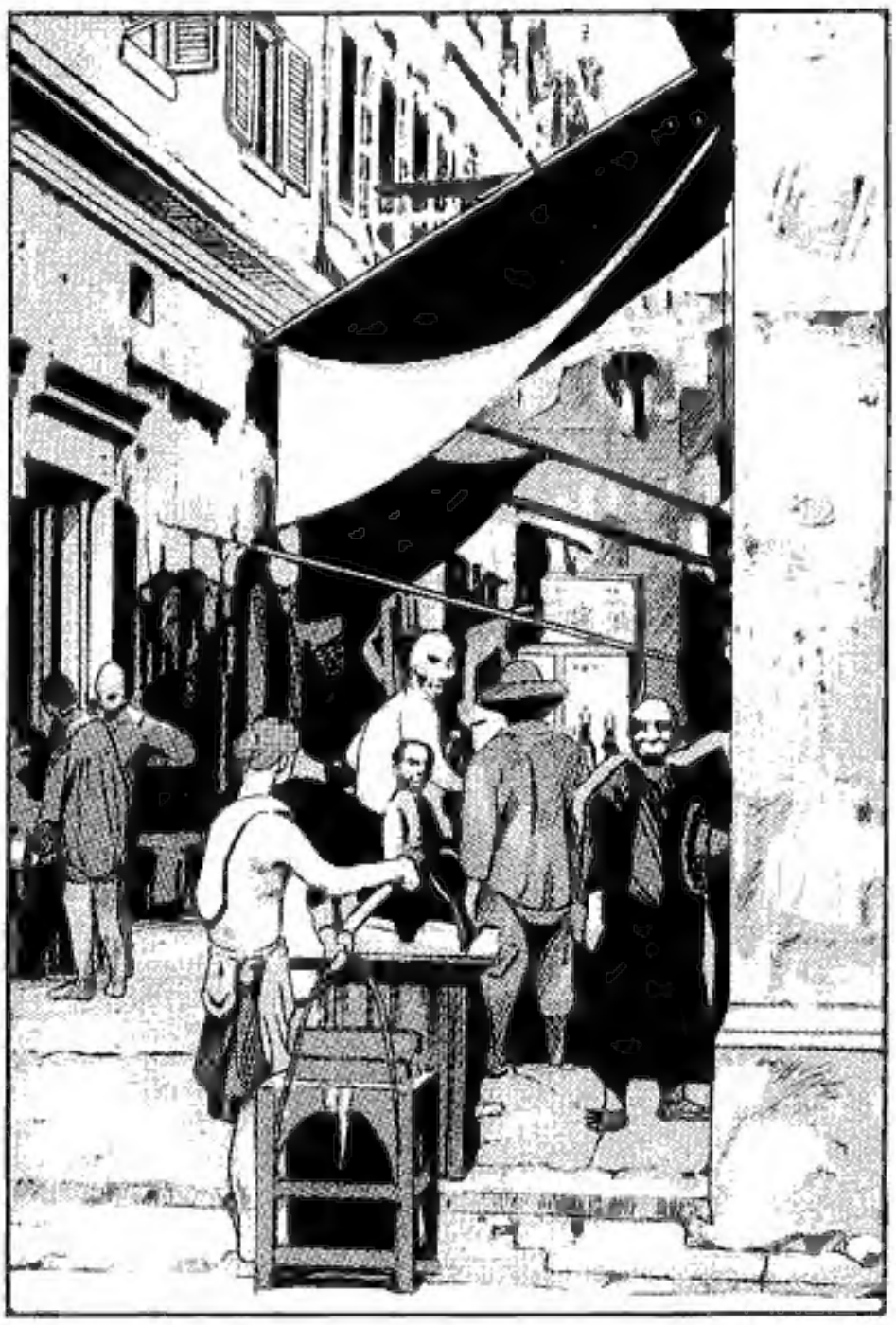
...SO IT'S LIKELY THAT THE ORDER CAME DIRECTLY *FROM HIM.*

A SPECIAL MISSION ...?!

NONE OF MY CONTACTS IN THE NAVY KNEW ANYTHING...

Shanghai





WILL CAUSE NAZIS TO COLLAPSE.

HITLER'S DEATH...

THE ALLIES WILL HAVE *NO REASON* TO PURSUE WARFARE.

...WILL EVENTUALLY COME TO AN END!

FIGHTING IN EUROPE...

MISTER KUSAKA...

THIS WILL BE THE FIRST STEP TOWARDS A PEACEFUL ACCORD BETWEEN JAPAN AND THE UNITED STATES.

EVEN IF IT COLLAPSES OUR ALLIANCE, I CANNOT DO IT!

EVEN IF IT IS HITLER!

I'M A SOLDIER OF THE EMPIRE!

YOU'RE NOT EVEN MILITARY. I DON'T HAVE TO TAKE ORDERS FROM YOU!

PERHAPS, BUT YOU'RE NO LONGER MY SUPERIOR...

NAZI GERMANY IS FALLING, THEIR COLLAPSE IS CERTAIN.

...I KNOW.

I...

...IS WORSE THAN NOT KNOWING!

PRETEND-ING NOT TO KNOW...

THAT IS WHY, I TOOK OFF MY UNIFORM AND RENOUNCED THE MILITARY.

...AND TO A MAN OF CHARACTER WHO HAS ALSO SEEN *THAT SHIP.*

I'M SPEAKING TO A SOLDIER OF THE IMPERIAL NAVY...

SFX: TACK

SFX: CLACK

"PRETENDING NOT TO KNOW..."

"I'M SPEAKING TO A MAN OF CHARACTER WHO HAS ALSO SEEN THAT SHIP"...

SFX: TING TING TING

LIEUTENANT TSUDA! A MESSAGE FROM THE COMBINED FLEET!

SFX: TACK

"...IS WORSE THAN NOT KNOWING!"

THANK YOU...

SFX: CLICK

YES, SIR!!!

I'M GOING ONSHORE. PREPARE A DINGHY.

SFX: TACK

SFX: VROOM

Yokosuka Officer's Club

SFX: SLAM

LIEUTENANT TSUDA, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT YOU ARE IN GOOD HEALTH...

THE SHIP HAS FACED THE AMERICAN AIRFORCE AND IS UNDER REPAIR

ADMIRAL!!!

SFX: TACK

YES...

YOU MET WITH KUSAKA, DIDN'T YOU?

IN FACT

I...

BUT...

YOU'VE DECIDED TO LEAVE?

HE WROTE TO ME; I KNOW WHAT HE ASKED YOU.

...IT'S SIMPLY A FANTASY OF THE CAPTAIN... I MEAN MISTER KUSAKA.

YOU WILL GO TO BERLIN *AS SOON AS POSSIBLE* ...

AH...

ADMIRAL ...

...IS THAT AN ORDER?

YOU HAVE NO TIME TO LOSE.

WE WILL PROVIDE YOU WITH SUPPLIES, WHATEVER IS NECESSARY.

YES!!!

IT'S AN ORDER FROM ISOROKU YAMAMOTO!

ADMIRAL... MAY I ASK YOU A QUESTION?

I'M LISTENING.

...

YOU'LL NEED TO TRAVEL UNDER A FALSE IDENTITY, BUT...

...EVERYTHING HAS BEEN PREPARED.

OF COURSE.

WILL I EVER GET THE OPPOR-TUNITY...

...TO WEAR THIS UNIFORM AS A SOLDIER OF THE IMPERIAL NAVY AGAIN?!

THANK YOU

...

YOU'LL SEE IT SOON...

HOW WILL I GET THERE?

IT'LL TAKE 3 MONTHS VIA SUB-MARINE.

THE TRANS-SIBERIAN GOES STRAIGHT TO GERMANY, BUT

DUE TO THE WAR ON THE EASTERN FRONT, IT HAS BECOME QUITE DANGEROUS.

!

TACHIKAWA AVIATION

WE HAVE JUST THE ONE YOU NEED.

THAT'S WHY, YOU'LL GO BY PLANE.

BY PLANE?

THE GROUND FORCES ARE ON ALERT

TAKE THIS AND GIVE ME YOUR HAT.

GOOD. I'LL DRIVE YOU TO THE HANGAR.

CAN YOU SHOW US THE PLANE?

HELLO, WE'VE BEEN WAITING FOR YOU.

BUT IT'S...

SFX: CLANG CLANG CLANG

AN A-26!

BUT IT NEVER REACHED NEW YORK SINCE WAR WAS DECLARED BETWEEN THE TWO NATIONS

IT'S A PROTOTYPE DEVELOPED BY THE "ASAHI" JOUNAL SOCIETY BEFORE THE WAR TO TRAVEL NON-STOP BETWEEN TOKYO AND NEW YORK...

THE DREAM TO FLY STILL EXISTS THERE.

THEORETICALLY, IT'S CAPABLE OF TRAVELLING *16,000 KM NON-STOP.*

THIS YEAR, THE GROUND FORCES BECAME INTERESTED AND TOOK THIS PROJECT WITH THE GOAL OF REACHING GERMANY... EXPERIMENTAL FLIGHTS WERE EVEN CONDUCTED.

YES, IT CAN FLY STRAIGHT TO EUROPE.

IF WE WEREN'T AT WAR, WE'D BE ABLE TO SET A NEW WORLD RECORD.

16,000 KM!

WITH THAT...

THEY'RE PREDICTING A FLIGHT TO SINGAPORE BY NOVEMBER.

THE GROUND FORCES SECRETLY HIRED SPECIALIZED WORKERS FROM TACHIKAWA AVIATION TO FINALIZE THE PROJECT.

IN THIS A-26...

I'LL BE GOING TO BERLIN!